

SENATOR BARNETT: OK, the objections that I had yesterday was taken care of, I think, by your research assistant and also by mine. They visited about it. They say there's possibly no problem here, no problem. I hope I understand what you are trying to do and I'm going to try to make it as plain as I can. I think what you are trying to do with this amendment which I want to support is that you are trying to give an incentive to the people in this state to put solar systems anywhere they can within their own property for any use. The reason for doing that is very simple. A lot of the people in here and across the country don't realize that we are facing an energy problem and it would probably get a lot worse as the time bears on. What you are doing in a small way, Senator Koch, is you are trying to offer these people the opportunity to experiment with new systems to conserve energy. We both know the American people and the people in Nebraska and anywhere else is going to take an awful lot of convincing before they are going to try new systems. Do I understand your amendment correctly?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes, you do Senator Barnett. That's explicit a definition of what I'm trying to do.

SENATOR BARNETT: I would hope that the body would pay attention and try to give Senator Koch the amendment on this thing so that we can attempt even Senator Keyes. I think we have to try to admit that maybe four years ago, we were wrong in the amendments you tried and now we have found that maybe we should give incentives and hope you are on our side because a little while ago you were opposing this. I hope you come back on the other side and try to support this issue. I think we've got to give incentives to the people in this state. We've got to hope they try new systems. I might even try one myself if I thought they had one that would work. I think that's the attitude a lot of people have in this state. If we can give them some small incentives, then maybe we can do the proper thing and get some of this energy problem licked. I hope we adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members. I'd like to elaborate just a little more on what Senator Barnett said. Anything as new as solar heating is expensive and there is no question in the world that five years down the road, probably, it will cost half as much as it does now but we're not going to be five years down the road unless people try it. And in the incentive to get people to try it and actually in the long run, it's going to cost them more money than if they did wait. But if they have enough ingenuity to try it, I think the small part, the small money that they would save in the sales tax is well worth the investment. Plus and I want to say once again, the fact that solar heating is more expensive than a conventional system, it is going to increase their property tax, their real estate. So I think it will probably derive more taxes than if we didn't have this small incentive that would be taken off. I support it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak, do you wish to be recognized again? (No response). Senator Koch, would you close debate on your motion?

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Mills has a proposed constitutional amendment to LB 323 which is on General File. The intent of that is to allow us